



**Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona**

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, March 23, 2005

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MEXICAN NATIONAL SENTENCED TO 15 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR ATTEMPTING TO SMUGGLE 12-YEAR-OLD ILLEGAL ALIEN TWINS

TUCSON, Ariz. – The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced here that on March 22, 2005, Gaspar Colmenero-Navarro, 42, of Mexico, was sentenced to 15 months in prison to be followed by three years of supervised release by U.S. District Judge David C. Bury. Colmenero-Navarro pleaded guilty on January 4, 2005 to Conspiracy to Transport Illegal Aliens for Profit, a violation of Title 8 US Code, Sections 1324(a)(1)(A)(ii), (a)(1)(A)(v)(II) and (a)(1)(B)(i).

Colmenero-Navarro previously admitted that on February 14, 2004 he attempted to enter the U.S. from Mexico at the Nogales, Ariz. Port of Entry. Colmenero-Navarro was the driver of a vehicle that contained six children. He provided Arizona birth certificates for all six children and declared that they were citizens of the U.S. Agents later determined that two of the six minor children, 12-year-old twins, were in fact citizens of Mexico without legal authorization to enter or remain in the U.S. During questioning of the twins, they told agents that Colmenero-Navarro instructed them to assume specific identities in the event they were questioned by immigration authorities. Upon questioning, Colmenero-Navarro admitted that he used birth certificates from five of his own children and one grandchild to facilitate transporting the illegal aliens into the U.S. He further admitted that the mother of the twins agreed to pay him \$1,500 to transport the minors to Phoenix.

The investigation in this case was conducted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection in Nogales, Ariz. The prosecution was handled by Raquel Arellano, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: CR-04-0542-TUC-DCB
RELEASE NUMBER: 2005-053

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